

August 29, 2021

Dear Ignite Elementary School Families,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year here at Ignite! This year brings a lot of anticipation as we return to full-time face-to-face learning. We have been preparing classrooms, organizing curriculum materials for our scholars, and introducing new teachers this month to Dubai and Ignite School. For those of you who were able to make it to the Meet and Greet on Thursday, there was passion, energy and enthusiasm shared among all our new and returning teachers as they put the finishing touches for launch on Sunday with all our scholars. While there will be some beginning of year challenges to work through as we kick off the school year, please know that our focus in these upcoming weeks will be on building community, and holding high expectations through teaching and practicing school rules for our learning community, which has grown significantly. I am confident that by keeping the communication lines open, together we can approach challenges meaningfully and we will celebrate our wins in style with our scholars!

This year, Grade 5 will join Grade 6 as part of Middle School and as such they will be served by content specialist teachers. The reason for this is to build a smaller, stronger learning community in which more teachers get to know the individual needs of their scholars, allowing for increased collaboration, communication and opportunities for success. We know that during this time period, our students are developing their identities, getting curious, questioning the world around them and exploring their interests, strengths and motivations. They are also experiencing new challenges as they become more independent, and by having more adult role models to guide them, our students will benefit.

One of the themes at Ignite Elementary School in Grades K-4 this year will be “Kindness is Free”. We will work with the students on a daily basis to show them that being kind to everyone is always the right approach to any situation. Your child will participate in a daily morning meeting during homeroom where they will be able to talk to their classmates about how they are feeling, their goals for that day and one interesting fact that they would like to share with their class. It is the goal of these meetings for the students to build a strong relationship with his/her classmates that will foster healthy, strength-based relationships.

Throughout the Ignite School community, there is an incredible level of excitement as everyone makes final preparations for the arrival of our children. It is with the same care, enthusiasm, and commitment that we approach the craft of teaching. We promote an educational environment that engages the students in meaningful work so that they develop the critical skills necessary to become independent, responsible, and productive citizens.

In closing, I offer a message to our Elementary School students who are new to Ignite. The staff and I are eagerly waiting to welcome you and your child to a wonderful school year and look forward to seeing everyone very soon. If you have any questions please contact me via email at principal.es@igniteschool.ae.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Stephen Appea

Ignite Elementary School Principal

